

DOT's Emergency Support for 2004 Federal Hurricane Response

By Floyd Miras, Great Lakes Region

This summer, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Region V Emergency Support Team answered a call to help relieve and bolster the DOT's Region IV Emergency Support Team providing emergency supplies to hurricane-maimed Florida. The DOT was responding to a mission assignment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to deliver emergency relief supplies to hurricane victims. The DOT performs this action as Emergency Support Function 1 under the Federal Response Plan.

An operations staging area was established at the Jacksonville, Florida, Naval Air Station. From this federal staging area, relief commodities were delivered to state staging areas located in local communities affected by the storms. Main relief supplies included water, ice, MRE's (meals ready to eat), and generators. The DOT team worked with FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Forest Service, and a distribution contractor to perform

the mission. DOT contracted with Landstar to move truckloads of supplies to the state staging areas. Landstar contracted with U.S. Xpress and other companies for additional resources.

As of September 15, more than 25.1 million pounds of emergency supplies in nearly 700 truckloads had been shipped from the Jacksonville staging area.

Floyd Miras, MARAD's Great Lakes Region, responded to the call as a member of the DOT Region V Emergency Response Team. Floyd was initially assigned to a staging area in a regional airport in Lakeland, Florida; however, the projected path of Hurricane Ivan caused evacuation and re-assignment to the Jacksonville staging area. Returning to the office after the two-week hurricane response effort, Floyd stated, "I was proud to do my part as a member of the DOT team assisting the hurricane-battered citizens of the state of Florida."



*The night shift of the DOT
Emergency Support Team*

*Left to Right: Ron Gressel,
FHWA; Lynette DuPree, FAA;
Floyd Miras, MARAD*



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